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This is a small number of people and I can't give you figures.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you.

SENATOR MARSH: This is to upgrade the quality of the educational opportunities for the young people of the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Dick Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is probably an idealistic situation. We have this bill along with a companion bill, LB 24, Senator Barnett's bill. It's going to impose a real hardship on your smaller school districts within the state because, as Senator Marsh points out, this is going to tighten up the requirements for this type of a driver education course. The companion bill prohibits a student from getting a drivers license unless they take driver education training. It starts the first year it will be 17, the second year they cannot obtain one until they are 18 unless they had this qualified course. Together these two bills are going to place a severe limitation on the smaller schools in the rural areas. I just want you to be aware of it. This does tighten up the regulations. It takes, as I understand it, from statutory authority to rules and regulations in the Department of Education and increases it from 6 hours necessary to 9 hours to qualify for this payment. Senator Marsh, am I correct in this assumption?

SENATOR MARSH: No, not exactly Senator Lewis. As this bill is designed it does not say the State Department of Education has to change. It does not say what the State Department of Education does. The State Department of Education makes the decision on every other area of education for our high school students in the State of Nebraska. Right now, only, this one area is in legislative statute. We ask the State Board of Education to be responsible for the education of the young people across the State of Nebraska, except in this one area where it got into statute. From my point of view, it was incorrectly put in statute to begin with. I feel that if we say State Department of Education you are responsible, then they should carry the responsibility. This is what the affect of the bill would be. I also want to remind this legislative body that the statistics for young drivers having accidents is higher than for our age group. The average accident per person increases rapidly when that young person does not have driver education. This is a safety measure as well.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Senator Marsh, I'd like to ask you, do you know that most of the cars that are used in the driver education training courses are courtesy cars, loaned by dealers and as we tighten up these regulations and increase, if we pass LB 24, the demand that more and